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Examiner Kriellon Sanders
United States Department of Commerce
US Patent and Trademark Office

Docket No. 2934-0103P

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Dear Examiner Sanders:

I hope for your understanding ---- I'm the inventor, not an attorney. I'm responding to the case because of financial reasons. I would have an attorney if I could afford it, but I can't.

Referring to page 2 of your review, you ask for a restriction.

I choose **option I**. "Claims 1-42 and 70-76, 95, and 96, drawn to a compostable and degradable polymer composition, classified in class 524, subclass 47".

I believe the only other task is to make a selection of one component from each of A, B, and D.

- A. polyesteramide -- I elect item v) on page 124 (copy of page enclosed)
- B. I elect starch derivatized with ethyleneimine, as shown on page 123 (copy enclosed)
- C. Crosslinker ---- 3-(trimethoxysilyl)-1-propanamine

Norman Holy
October 15, 2003

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Claims:

1 1. A compostable and/or degradable polymer
2 composition, comprising:
3 polymer (A) which is a polyesteramide copolymer;
4 polymer (B) which is at least one polymer selected from
5 the group consisting of polyethylenevinyl alcohol, polyvinyl
6 alcohol, polyester, starch, starch derivative, cellulose,
7 polyethylene glycol, chitin, amylose, amylopectin, ~~starch~~
8 ~~derivatized with ethyleneimine~~, cellulose derivatized with
9 ethyleneimine, polysaccharides derivatized with
10 ethyleneimine, lignin derivatized with ethyleneimine,
11 farinaceous materials derivatized with ethyleneimine and
12 mixtures thereof;
13 component (C) which is a plasticizer; and
14 component (D) which is a crosslinking agent;
15 wherein the polymer composition comprises 0 to 60 wt%
16 of polymer (B), 0 to 25 wt% of component (C), and 0 to 5 wt%
17 of component (D);
18 wherein all wt% values are based upon the total weight
19 of the polymer composition; and
20 with the proviso that the polymer composition must
21 contain at least one of polymer (B) and component (D).

1 2. The compostable and/or degradable polymer
2 composition according to claim 1, wherein the amide content
3 is 80 to 20 wt% of the polyesteramide copolymer.

1 3. The compostable and/or degradable polymer
2 composition according to claim 1, wherein the ester content
3 is 20 to 80 wt% of the polyesteramide copolymer.

1 4. The compostable and/or degradable polymer
2 composition according to claim 1, wherein polymer (A) is
3 prepared from at least one of the following sets of
4 reactants:

5 i) cyclic amide; dicarboxylic acid or ester and
6 aliphatic diol;

7 ii) aliphatic polyamide and a cyclic ester, a diol
8 or both;

9 iii) aliphatic diamine, dicarboxylic acid or ester
10 and aliphatic diol;

11 iv) cyclic amide, dicarboxylic acid or ester,
12 tricarboxylic acid or ester; and aliphatic diol;

13 v) cyclic amide and cyclic ester;

14 vi) aminocarboxylic acid, dicarboxylic acid or
15 ester and aliphatic diol;

16 vii) aliphatic diamine and/or triamine, aliphatic
17 diol, dicarboxylic acid or ester and cyclic amide;

18 viii) aliphatic polyamide and polyester;

19 ix) polymerized vegetable oil and polyester,
20 aliphatic diol or both;

21 x) aliphatic diamine and aliphatic diol;

22 xi) cyclic amide, aminocarboxylic acid, and
23 hydroxycarboxylic acid;

24 xii) cyclic amide and hydroxycarboxylic acid;

25 xiii) aliphatic polyamide and hydroxycarboxylic
26 acid;

27 xiv) cyclic amide, cyclic ester, dicarboxylic acid
28 or ester and aliphatic diol;

29 xv) a triol/diol/aliphatic dicarboxylic acid
30 crosspolymer and a
31 polyamide; and

3 is selected from the group consisting of ammonium
4 polyphosphate and zinc pyrophosphate.

1 29. The compostable and/or degradable polymer
2 composition according to claim 27, wherein the degrading aid
3 is in a range of 0.1 - 5 wt%.

1 30. The compostable and/or degradable polymer
2 composition according to claim 1, further comprising
3 component (D) which is a crosslinking agent.

1 31. The compostable and/or degradable polymer composition
2 according to claim 30, wherein the crosslinking agent is
3 selected from the group consisting of a triamine, triol,
4 jeffamine, polyethyleneimine, multifunctional amines,
5 glycerol, sorbitol, EVOH, PVOH, triaminopyrimidines,
6 tetraazacyclo-tetradecane, tricarboxylic acid or ester,
7 tetracarboxylic acid or ester, methylene bis(4-phenyl
8 isocyanate), vinyltrimethoxysilane, diethylene glycol
9 diglycidyl ether, epichlorohydrin,
10 1,1,3,3,5,5,7,7,9,9,11,11-dodecamethyl-1,11-bis(4-
11 (oxiranylethoxy)phenyl)-Hexasiloxane, 3-(trimethoxysilyl)-
12 1-Propanamine, zinc pyrophosphate, zinc oxide and mixtures
13 thereof.

1 32. The compostable and/or degradable polymer
2 composition according to claim 30, wherein the crosslinking
3 agent is selected from the group consisting of

4 3,3-dimethoxy-7,9-dimethyl-7-((nonamethyltetra-
5 siloxanyl)oxy))-9-((trimethylsilyl)oxy)-2,8,13-trioxa-3,7,9-
6 trisilapentadecan-15-ol;

7 1,1,1,3,3,5,5,7,7,9,11,13,15,17,19,19,